A marble mural tablet has been recently placed in Hanley Castle Church, near Upton-upon-Severn, to the memory of the Rev. George Turbeville, upwards of fifty years vicar and resident of that parish. This tribute of respect has been erected at the expense of the Hon. Gen. H. B. Lygon, M.P.

The foundation-stone of the intended church in the new district of St. John, in the parish of Wednesbury, was laid by Lady Emily Foley, on Thursday week. The site of this intended church was given, together with a donation of 510*l.*, by Samuel Addison, Esq. The edifice will contain one thousand sittings, one-half of which will be free. It will be in the early English style of architecture, having a capacious and lofty nave, with ornamental timbered roof.

The contractors of the Lancaster and Carlisle Railway, Messrs. Stephenson and Co., have undertaken the execution of the Caledonian line, as well as the Kendal and Windermere Railway. These gentlemen have on hand railway work nearly 350 miles in extent.

The Earl of Falmouth has contributed 50*l.* and Lady Bassett a donation of 100*l.* to the local fund for the extension and improvement of the Penryn Docks and Falmouth Harbour.

Earl Talbot, the Hon. R. Curzon, and Sir George Chetwynd, Bart., have contributed liberal donations towards the rebuilding of the ancient parish church of Armytage, Staffordshire, which has become much dilapidated by the course of time.

At the Essex Quarter Sessions, held last week, it was determined that the proposed extensive alteration of Springfield Gaol should be carried into effect; that the buildings be executed by contract; and that the money required for the purpose be raised on security of the county rates, to be repaid in thirty years, and borrowed in separate sums, as the committee may recommend. The estimates amounted altogether to 32,584*l.*

At Sudbury, the authorities, with the view of improving the town by their removal, have lately purchased two houses, for which the sum of 2,580*l.* was paid. It is now some years since the commissioners under the former Act made the first purchase, amounting to 300*l.*, with the faint hope that ultimately the whole of the houses, ten in number, then surrounding the church of St. Peter, might be purchased, and taken down. This desirable object, as far as relates to the purchase, is now completed. The contemplated improvements, if carried out, will prove highly ornamental to the place.

At the Warwickshire Easter Sessions, held last week, a report from the committee on county prisons was presented. It appears that having examined and considered the five several plans for altering and improving the county prisons suggested to the Court at the last sessions, they came to a unanimous opinion in favour of adopting the one submitted by Major Jebb, for an entirely new gaol for the whole county, to be erected outside of the town of Warwick, but as near thereto as a convenient site may be found. On the motion of Lord Brooke, it was resolved to take the subject into further consideration at the next sessions.

At Weston-super-Mare a new pier is about to be erected after the design of Mr. Horwood, of Bristol. It is proposed to carry the pier out with solid masonry a distance of 396 feet; the roadway or surface being 17 feet wide, and at the end to extend it on either side, so as to form a promenade of 100 feet in length, and affording at its back a shelter to vessels *in all weathers*. At the end of 396 feet from the main land the pier will terminate, but a slip will be continued, extending in the same direction to several feet below dead low-water mark, and on which a landing can be effected at any time. Towards the carrying the design into execution John Hugh Smyth Pigott, Esq., the lord of the manor, makes a noble gift of whatever land may be wanting for the object, an unbounded supply of stone, such timber as the hill will afford, and will take shares in the undertaking to the amount of 1,000*l.*; Mr. Synge, Mr. Davies, Mr. Chalmers, Mr. Edgar, Mr. W. Cox, Mr. B. Pursley, and other gentlemen of the committee, will also take shares to the amount of 2,000*l.* more.

At Eastover, near Bridgwater, the new church of St. John the Baptist was opened last Wednesday week by licence from the bishop, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners being unable to make an immediate grant towards the endowment. Drawings of this church (which was designed and executed by Mr. Brown, of Norwich) have been selected for publication by the Church Building Society, as a favourable example of modern church architecture.

At Lynn, the foundations of a new church having been completed, the ceremony of laying the first stone was to have taken place yesterday, the Bishop of the Diocese officiating.

The *Leamington Courier* states that there is every probability of a Tennis Court being soon erected in that town. The cost of erection is estimated at 1,600*l.*, and the number of shares already taken amount to 1,300*l.*, the subscribers including Lord Leigh, Lord Brooke, Lord Howth, Lord Guernsey, Lord Lewisham, Sir C. Douglas, M.P., Dr. Jephson, and many other visitors and residents of distinction.

At Southend, the pier is fast approaching completion, it will be ready for opening by the middle of July. The old light-house has been swept away, not by the tide but by the hand of the improver, and the piles are all driven and the lower platform prepared for a convenient pier head.

The column about to be erected in Holkham Park, to the memory of the Right Hon. Thomas William Coke, Earl of Leicester, consists of a fluted shaft, whose base stands on a pedestal of four sides. The capital of the pillar, which is Composite, has at each angle the head and neck of a horned ox. A circular turret, supported by scroll buttresses, perforated with oval apertures, and embattled ornamentally, surmounts the abacus, or crowning of the capital; out of which rises a dome-like termination, with the figure of a wheat-sheaf on the top. The four sides of the pedestal are occupied with sculptured designs in *bas-relief*, allusive to the celebrated sheep-shearing and farming festivals held, during so many years, under the presiding auspices of that great patron of agricultural improvements.

A donation of 2,000*l.* has been contributed by a wealthy individual in the neighbourhood of Liverpool towards the erection of a new church in Toxteth Park, coupled with the condition that the Rev. H. M'Neile should be one of the trustees.

The parish church at Bawdeswell, Norfolk, having been rebuilt, was consecrated last Tuesday week by the Bishop of Norwich. The church, erected in the pointed style on a cruciform plan, with a south porch and bell-cote at the east gable, has sittings for 317 persons, of which 277 are free. The cost of the building was 1,400*l.*

At Manchester a new chamber of commerce is being formed. On Monday last a meeting was held at the Albion Hotel, when a committee of sixteen gentlemen was appointed for the purpose of framing the laws and regulations of the institution, to report to a future meeting, when directors are to be appointed, and the necessary arrangements made for commencing the proceedings of the association. About 150 individuals and firms, of all shades of opinion in politics, and including a large proportion of the leading merchants and manufacturers of the town, have already given their names as members of the new chamber. Such is the present activity in the building of houses, warehouses, railway extensions, &c., in Manchester and its vicinity, that so early in the season as the present, bricks have advanced, as compared with their value this time last year, more than 75 per cent.

At a meeting, held last week, of the authorities in Hull, a report from the surveyor containing various recommendations for draining the town was read, and will, without doubt, be carried into effect. The surveyor (Mr. H. Newton) concludes his report by saying that, "with these improvements you will be prepared to send a stream of water through every street in Hull, as often as the tides will allow; and, when completed, the town of Hull will not be surpassed in drainage by any town in the kingdom." The whole of the improvements suggested were estimated at 3,000*l.*, as several large drains would have to be made.

Messrs. Leahy, the engineers of the Cork and Bandon Railway, propose erecting a viaduct on a novel construction for the intended crossing over the mail-coach road and valley at Chetwynd, near Cork. The extreme height of the viaduct is 82 feet over the valley, which is passed by three equal spans, each 240 feet; the centre and the two abutment piers are of stone, in the Doric style. The construction is very simple and 'novel': the greater number of its parts are of uniform size and shape, and there is neither a mortice and tenon joint, or a spike or nail, in the entire structure, nor will there be any necessity of centering for its erection. All these peculiar features of the design will reduce the expense of its construction far below the usual cost of such works. There is no viaduct in Europe constructed on this principle, and if successful it will enable companies to construct railways in localities where otherwise they could not be attempted, and for this reason it promises to be of national advantage.

The work of improvement is steadily progressing at Yarmouth, and building and railroad schemes promise not only to be beneficial to the inhabitants, but profitable to those who are so ready to embark in these undertakings. Houses are gradually covering the building sites laid out.

THE IRON TRADE.

The usual quarterly meetings of the iron-masters at Walsall, Wolverhampton, Birmingham, Stourbridge, and Dudley, were held the week before last. The prices agreed upon may be quoted as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Bars	12	0	0
Common nail rods	12	0	0
Rails	14	0	0
Hoops	13	0	0
Plates	14	0	0
Sheets	14	0	0
Pigs (Shropshire)	6	10	0
Pigs (Staffordshire)	6	10	0

There was a prevalent opinion that the last advance of 2*l.* was uncalled for, injudicious, and likely to prove injurious both to masters and men. This extraordinary price is, however, justified upon several grounds. The great advance which has taken place in the price of coal and limestone, combined with at least 25 per cent. increase in the wages of the miners, has unquestionably compelled the iron-masters to put a high figure upon their make. Coal at the present moment, owing to the prevalence of local strikes in certain districts, is extremely scarce, and in many other parts, where the men are apparently satisfied with the wages given, the miners do not work more than four days a week. The advance in the price of coal in consequence of the flourishing state of the iron manufacture and the demand of the colliers has not been less than 3*s.* per ton. Still, it is thought, that even the increased demand, great as it was, and the high price of materials, did not justify the advance in bars at one sudden step from 10*l.* to 12*l.* One singular reason, however, in addition to the more plausible ones already urged, has been given for this advance. It is stated, that it was suggested by some of the great firms with a view to stop further orders. This may appear somewhat absurd, but if good authority is to be relied upon, it is nevertheless true.

Several of the most extensive and influential iron-masters stated that "there was no intention to attempt a further advance—they were perfectly content with the present prices if they could be maintained." It cannot, however, be doubted, from the general complexion of the various meetings, that some misgivings as to the long continuance of the present prices have come over the minds of some of the great masters. The defeat or abandonment of many of the projected lines of railway—foreign competition, already sensibly felt in the market—and the great injury which the high price of iron has already inflicted upon the hardware trade, it is thought of necessity will cause a reduction. Another more powerful reason may be given for the probability of this result. The large speculators in iron—men who, for the last four or six months, have been hoarding up stocks with a view to a high price—seem to imagine that it has reached the maximum, and are beginning to bring it into the market.

With respect to Staffordshire pig iron, the opinion is it will fall. It will be observed that in the list given above, the prices of Staffordshire and Shropshire pigs are given as the same. So they were quoted in Birmingham

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